

Filed for intro on 03/09/2000

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 523
By Williams (Wil)

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the Young Scholars' Institute and Ms. Marnie Cotton for her contributions to the program.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to the dedicated members of those exemplary organizations, who have given unreservedly of themselves to develop this state's most precious natural resource—our children; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Marnie Cotton and the faculty and staff of Young Scholars' Institute are most assuredly one such extraordinary group of people deserving of praise and commendation; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, a summer program inspired by Marnie Cotton was initiated by the Franklin Special School District known as the Young Scholars' Institute; and

WHEREAS, the faculty and staff at Young Scholars' Institute inspire their students to imagine a better future and create a better world by encouraging excellence in each of them; and

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WHEREAS, Young Scholars' Institute is a program providing students with a variety of exploratory experiences in a creative learning environment; and

WHEREAS, the school began with forty students and a staff of ten and has experienced tremendous growth to over 900 students with a staff of seventy-five; and

WHEREAS, initially serving only gifted children, Young Scholars' Institute has since expanded to include all highly motivated students; and

WHEREAS, the school offers over 110 classes in the subject areas of arts and crafts, music, history, language arts, food experiences, motor skills, computers, problem solving, drama, and science; and

WHEREAS, sponsored by the Franklin Special School District, Young Scholars' Institute is a public school that has the distinction of being totally self-supporting and relies on no special funding of any sort; and

WHEREAS, since its implementation, the program has served and challenged thousands of students to a higher level of education and creative learning experience while achieving maximum enrollment with a waiting list since the school opened its doors; and

WHEREAS, Young Scholars' Institute has recently expanded its program to a second site to accommodate more students; and

WHEREAS, there is no other self-supporting summer program anywhere else in the state of Tennessee that serves as many public school students and has such an extensive program that provides an excellent creative educational opportunity like the one found at Young Scholars' Institute; and

WHEREAS, Marnie Cotton inspired the program's creation and has taught in her brainchild since its inception, in addition to serving as its director and co-director for over ten years; and

WHEREAS, the good people of the Williamson County community have long recognized and appreciated Young Scholars' Institute's faculty and staff's excellence as educators; and

WHEREAS, Marnie Cotton and the teachers at Young Scholars' are cherished by the parents and are perceived as never-ending sources of inspiration who motivate their students to reach their full potential, perhaps the greatest of all teaching gifts; and

WHEREAS, Young Scholars' Institute and Marnie Cotton are the perfect examples of an institution totally committed to quality education and the highest ideals of public service and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend the Franklin Special School District's Young Scholars' Institute for their inspirational pursuit of educational excellence, applaud Ms. Marnie Cotton for individually inspiring, challenging, directing, and teaching in the program since its beginning, and extend to her and the program our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.